

APPLICANT(S): Blake Johnson
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REMARKS

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-20 have been subjected to restriction and/or election requirement.

Claims 17-20 have been withdrawn from consideration without prejudice or disclaimer. In making this withdrawal without prejudice, Applicants reserve all rights in these claims to file divisional and/or continuation patent applications.

35 U.S.C. § 121 Restriction

In the Office Action, the Examiner required a restriction under 35 U.S.C. 121 to one of the following sets of the claims inventions which the Examiner considered patentably distinct:

- I. Claims 1-16, drawn to an optimization process of the cost/risk of sourcing, class 705, subclass 7.
- II. Claims 17-20, drawn to representing values of various variables, class 705, subclass 7.

Although Applicant does not agree with the Examiner's position, in the interest of expediting prosecution of the above reference Application, Applicant elects claims 1-16 for further prosecution, and with traverse withdraws from consideration claims 17-20.

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Respectfully submitted,



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